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19 MAYOR KUHAIDA: Thank you. Good evening. My

20 name is Jerry Kuhaida. I'm from Oakridge, Tennessee,

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21 which has been a DOE community -- for 16 years.

22 Tonight I'm speaking as chairman of the Energy

23 Communities Alliance or ECA. ECA is a membership

24 organization of local governments that are adjacent to

25 or impacted by the Department of Energy activities

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1 across the country. Our membership has been comprised

2 of over 20 communities in the states of Tennessee, New

3 Mexico, Colorado, Washington, Idaho, Ohio, and Nevada.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nevada.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me, I'm from

6 the South, and --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Be excused if you

8 like.

9 MAYOR KUHAIDA: Our mission is to bring

10 together DOE-impacted communities in order to share

11 information, learn from each other, and effectively

12 address an increasingly complex set of constituent,

13 environmental, transportation, regulatory and economic

14 development needs of those communities. ECA's goal is

15 to ensure that local governments have a voice in all
16 DOE decisions that impact local communities.

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17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Take a plebiscite
18 here.

19 MAYOR KUHAIDA: ECA's membership does not
20 have a formal policy on a selection of Yucca Mountain
21 as the nation's repository for spent nuclear fuel and
22 high-level radioactive waste. However, we do support
23 accelerated cleanup of a DOE complex, so that the
24 nation's World War II and Cold War moorage, that is the
25 cost of storing and managing radioactive and other

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1 contaminants generated during weapons production, can
2 be reduced and so that these sites can be reused to
3 support economically viable communities nearby.

4 Obviously accelerated cleanup involves the
5 transfer of waste from sites to which continued storage
6 is costly and disposal is inappropriate. It goes to
7 sites at which disposal can be accomplished much more
8 efficiently and cost effectively. The Energy
9 Communities Alliance recognizes, of course, the idea of
10 developing central repository sites for disposal of
11 nuclear waste in the United States. The key, of

12 course, is to ensure that these sites are safe for
13 disposal of the nuclear waste and that the
14 transportation of waste to these sites through
15 communities is done safely. Even a safe and
16 well-managed transportation disposal of radiological
17 materials involves material at disposal site region as
18 a dump for unwanted waste generated elsewhere. The
19 consequence is damage to the economic development
20 objectives of such affected communities.

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21 ECA believes that, based upon the results of
22 DOE's Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability
23 Evaluation, the results of the Environmental Protection
24 Agency and Nuclear Regulatory Commission studies and
25 standards setting, that the Secretary of Energy will
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1 recommend the selection of the Yucca Mountain Site, as
2 a central repository for high-level radioactive waste
3 and spent fuels from around the United States. ECA
4 wants to ensure that the administration, Congress, DOE,
5 NRC, EPA, the State and others understand the needs and
6 impacts on the local communities around the site of
7 this decision. From ECA's perspective, we want to
8 ensure if the program advances, that the impacts of the

9 selection of Yucca Mountain are mitigated and that the
10 communities around the Yucca Mountain Site can benefit
11 positively from the selection of the site. The Energy
12 Communities Alliance supports the provision of
13 resources to communities disproportionately impacted by
14 waste transportation and waste disposal. ECA
15 recognizes that the cleanup of generator sites in the
16 DOE complex is economically beneficial to the nation
17 and to the future of nearby communities.

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18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why are you here?

19 MAYOR KUHAIDA: But involves transfer of risk
20 and potential damage to the economic future of the
21 regions most affected by waste transportation and
22 disposal operations.

23 ECA makes the following recommendations:

24 Number one, the DOE should conduct a nationwide
25 campaign for the cleanup of the DOE complex in such a

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1 way as not to jeopardize the public health and economic
2 future of the communities in the region of the
3 receiving sites. And that the DOE should take specific
4 steps in consultation with local communities to ensure
5 that this does not occur. These communities require

6 adequate resources for emergency management, impact
7 mitigation, equity compensation, and economic
8 development. Number 2 --

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9 MODERATOR LAWSON: 30 seconds.

10 MAYOR KUHAIDA: That the DOE agency
11 responsible for the disposal at the site should be
12 responsible for obtaining such adequate assistance from
13 generator sites, and the generator sites shall
14 cooperate in providing the needed resource.

15 Number 3, at the destination end of a major
16 controversial nation shipping campaign, the risk of
17 alternative routes be assessed. Further, the Secretary
18 of Energy must ensure that economic development
19 opportunities are afforded these impacted communities.

20 Thank you for your consideration. ECA
21 appreciates the opportunity to testify at this very
22 important hearing.